

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 L-03 SS-15 H-03

COME-00 PCH-02 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 CG-00 EB-11

ACDA-19 AEC-11 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04

OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-10 /236 R

DRAFTED BY COA:WLSULLIVAN;L/OA:HDCAMITA;E:JWBILLER:LK

8/13/73 EXT 22009

APPROVED BY SECRETARY

H:MR: WRIGHT

EA/J:MR. ERICSON

L/OA:MR. CAMITTA (DRAFT)

COMMERCE:UNDERSECRETARY TABOR(DRAF

E:MR. CASEY (DRAFT)

EUR:MR. STOESSEL

IO:MR. POPPER

S/S - MR. PICKERING

----- 023521

R 221727Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMCONSUL HALIFAX BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166742

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, OCON, XN, PFOR, US
SUBJ: FISHERIES: ICNAF
REFS: (A) STATE 85811 (B) STATE 86290 (C) STATE 86329
(D) STATE 90315 (E) COPENHAGEN 1378 (F) STATE 180536
OCT 72

GENEVA FOR USDEL LOS

1. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES EXCEPT BERLIN: AMBASSADOR REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER. PURPOSE OF LETTER IS TO EXPRESS AT HIGH LEVEL OF HOST GOVERNMENT SERIOUSNESS OF U.S. CONCERN OVER STATUS OF U.S. ATLANTIC COAST FISHERIES REGULATED BY ICNAF (INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES) AND NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO REMEDY SITUATION. WE BELIEVE THAT TASK OF ACHIEVING EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF ICNAF FISHERIES SHOULD BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF LARGER PROBLEM OF ASSURING ADEQUATE GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLIES, AND WANT DELEGATIONS TO HAVE THIS RELATIONSHIP CLEARLY IN MIND WHEN THEY ATTEND SPECIAL ICNAF MEETING IN OTTAWA OCTOBER 15-19 TO ESTABLISH ADEQUATE MEASURES TO HALT DECLINE IN STOCKS AND BEGIN REBUILDING. DRAWING ON MATERIAL IN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CABLE, AMBASSADORS SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT FISHERY IS ALREADY IN CRISIS DUE TO FAILURE OF ICNAF TO TAKE ADEQUATE REMEDIAL ACTION, AND THAT OCTOBER MEETING IS LAST CHANCE TO ACHIEVE SOLUTION THROUGH ICNAF MACHINERY.

2. FOR BERLIN: IF POSSIBLE IN INFORMAL CONTACTS, GDR SHOULD BE INFORMED OF LEVEL OF USG INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND BE MADE AWARE OF POINTS IN SECRETARY'S LETTER AND FOLLOWING CABLE. PLEASE TRY IMPRESS ON GDR THAT THEY MUST CONFIDENTIAL

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SHARE BURDEN, WHETHER OR NOT THEY BECOME MEMBER OF ICNAF. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH MATTER IF THEY WERE TO BECOME MEMBER BY TIME OF SPECIAL FALL MEETING.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER: QTE DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION MY DEEP CONCERN OVER A SPECIAL ASPECT OF THE CURRENT GLOBAL IMBALANCE IN

THE DEMAND FOR AND SUPPLY OF FOOD COMMODITIES, PARTICULARLY PROTEINS. IT CONCERNS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING FISH-ERY STOCKS AS A CONTINUING FOOD RESOURCE.

RECENT EVENTS HAVE DRAMATICALLY ILLUSTRATED THE FACT OF GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE WITH REGARD TO WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES. THE EFFECT OF CROP FAILURES IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD OR INCREASED DEMAND IN ANOTHER CAN LEAD TO AN IMBALANCE WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS ALL. THE IMPACT IS NOT LIMITED TO IN-ADEQUACIES IN THE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD, BUT IS ALSO REFLECTED IN DOMESTIC INFLATIONARY PRESSURES.

FISHERY RESOURCES REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL SUPPLY OF PROTEIN. IN ORDER THAT THEY CONTINUE TO DO SO, HOWEVER, THEY MUST BE MANAGED SO AS TO ASSURE THAT OVER THE LONG RUN THEY ARE NOT DEPLETED. UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE AREA OF THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, MODERN FISHING TECHNIQUES AND THE STEADILY INCREASING FISHING EFFORT OF MANY COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY RESULTED IN THE DEPLETION OF CERTAIN IMPORTANT FOOD FISH SPECIES. HADDOCK HAS NEARLY DISAPPEARED AS AN IMPORTANT FISH CROP, AND OTHER SPECIES ARE NOW SERIOUSLY THREATENED. THE TOTAL FISHING EFFORT IN 1972 IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES OFF THE U.S. COAST WAS APPROXIMATELY 45 PERCENT ABOVE THE LEVEL PERMISSABLE TO ASSURE MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELDS OVER THE LONG RUN. ALTHOUGH THE EVER INCREASING FISHING EFFORT HAS ENABLED THE TOTAL CATCH TO REMAIN HIGH, RESEARCH VESSEL SURVEYS INDICATE THAT SINCE 1967 THE FINFISH POPULATION IN THE REGION HAS DECLINED BY MORE THAN 65 PERCENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT IF ADEQUATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT MEASURES ARE NOT TAKEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, FISH YIELDS WILL DROP SHARPLY, AND ADDITIONAL PRESSURE WILL BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON OTHER PROTEIN SOURCES THAT ARE ALREADY IN SHORT SUPPLY. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT WE MUST NOT ONLY HALT THE DECLINE IN THESE STOCKS BUT BEGIN TO REBUILD THEM.

THIS PROBLEM WILL BE THE FOCUS OF A PROPOSED SPECIAL MEETING IN OTTAWA THIS COMING OCTOBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES (ICNAF). THE FISH SPECIES OFF THE U.S. COAST GOVERNED BY ICNAF ARE IN SERIOUS AND IMMEDIATE DANGER OF EXHAUSTION, AND UNLESS THE OCTOBER MEETING TAKES MEASURES TO PREVENT CONTINUED OVER-FISHING, THIS IMPORTANT SOURCE OF PROTEIN SUPPLY AND FISHING INDUSTRY LIVELIHOOD WILL BE LOST.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WISHES TO INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENT AND

IS SIMULTANEOUSLY INFORMING THE GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER ICNAF MEMBERS OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OCTOBER SPECIAL MEETING OF ICNAF. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY MADE KNOWN THE SPECIFIC CONTROLS THAT IT BELIEVES ARE NECESSARY TO RESTORE THE STOCK OF FISH IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES TO A LEVEL THAT CAN BE PERMANENTLY SUSTAINED. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ISSUE TO YOUR DELEGATION TO THE OCTOBER MEETING INSTRUCTIONS WHICH REFLECT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CRISIS IN THESE FISHERIES AND WHICH TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS CRISIS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSURING AN ADEQUATE AND ORDERLY GLOBAL SUPPLY OF FOOD COMMODITIES.

SINCERELY YOURS,

WILLIAM P. ROGERS ENDQTE

4. PLEASE REPORT HOST GOVERNMENT REACTIONS PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 10. RESPONSES SHOULD BE REPEATED TO GENEVA FOR USDEL LOS (THROUGH AUGUST 24), COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE (BY POUCH), OTTAWA, AND EC BRUSSELS FOR INFO. ROGERS

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED HALIFAX

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NNN

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